

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICC approves railroad safety improvements near Nokomis

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a public safety improvement project involving the installation of automatic flashing light signals and gates controlled by constant warning time circuitry, the posting of temporary STOP signs, and the installation of Advance Warning signs at the North 23rd Street and North 20th Street grade crossings near the City of Nokomis, Montgomery County.

The total estimated cost for the warning device safety improvements is estimated to be \$689,301. The Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay 90 percent of the installation costs, not to exceed \$620,371. The Union Pacific Railroad Company will pay the remaining installation costs, as well as all future operating and maintenance costs. The project must be completed by Nov. 29, 2007.

ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

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